the problem is not so very acute in your taluk. You must take a comprehensive view of the matter and not each taluk by itself. The works must be taken up in the order of urgency. It is not possible to repair all the tanks in one year or to deal with all taluks at once.

Member.—There are only four pakuthies in our taluk requiring relief. The ryots are poor. An investigation may be made. A portion of the sum allotted to Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod may be used for us.

Dewan's reply.—No sum has yet been set apart.

55. Irrigation system in the Vilavankod taluk, with special reference to the desirability of constructing an anicut at Vannanpara (across the Kodayar) in Kaliyal pakuthi for irrigating lands along the right bank of the Kuzhittura river.

Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai (Member, Vilavankod Taluk) submitted that, in point of irrigational facilities, his was one of the most backward taluks in the State, and that the people of the taluk had been agitating about the matter for a very long time and had been urging it at successive sessions of the Assembly. He then referred to the Irrigation Conference recently held at Kuzhittura under the presidency of the Dewan and to the terms of the resolutions passed at the Conference in regard to the share of Government and of the people in the matter of meeting the cost of restoration and of maintenance of the tanks in the taluk, and submitted that they should be revised. It was pointed out at the Conference that, according to the custom of the taluk, the obligation to carry out the repairs and maintenance of minor tanks lay entirely upon the people, but that the Government were prepared to show a special concession and contribute $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost, the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ being borne by the ryots interested. But the Member observed that a reference to G. O. No. 6993A/ P. W., dated the 6th September 1908 would show that, so far as Shencottah and Vilavankod taluks were concerned, the custom was for recovering from the ryots concerned only a portion of the cost of constructing and repairing irrigation works. The Member then referred to the provisions of G. O. No. 2933/L. R., dated the 18th March 1911 which stated that "though the Government are entitled under the law to levy from the ryots the entire cost of the construction, restoration and repair of minor irrigation works the Government are pleased to direct that it will be sufficient to levy half the cost in future in regard to such works as are carried out in the State". The Member contended that, besides the 25 per cent which the Government had already promised to contribute, they should also be given the concession of 50 per cent provided in the above G. O., or 75 per cent on the whole, the remaining 25 per cent alone being recovered from the people. In the light of these observations the Member prayed for a review of the terms adopted at the Conference, as they agreed to them under a misapprehension of the real situation and facts. He also requested that the number of instalments for the recovery of the people's contribution should be increased to 20 instead of being fixed at 5 or 6 as stated in the opening Address.

He next urged the desirability of constructing a dam at Vannanpara. In spite of the fact that the scheme was condemned by experts, he still held that the scheme was worthy of investigation, and prayed for an expert officer being deputed for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—The Chief Engineer is anxious to find out what exactly your idea is regarding the Vannanpara scheme. Please see him with full details. After interviewing you that officer will say if any further investigation could be profitably conducted. In regard to the revision of the terms agreed to at the recent Conferrence at Kuzhittura, I would refer you to my reply to the previous speaker.

56. Certain proposals regarding the conversion of dry lands into wet under the Kodayar Project.

Mr. M. Bhutalingam Pillai (Member, Nominated) welcomed the appointment of the Special Officer and represented that the following obstacles stood in the way of increasing the converted area under the Kodayar project, *viz.*,

(i) The discontinuance of the practice whereby water cess for the first five years after the conversion was remitted. This remission had been recommended by the late,

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Mr. R. Mahadeva Aiyar, in his Report on the Kodayar Project (page 25, Vol. III), and it should be allowed in all cases as a general rule.

(ii) Insufficient supply of water for cultivation. During times of drought, there is less water in the reservoir and more demand for its supply.

(iii) The removal, at the discretion of the P. W. D. of the spouts in the channels. Permanent sluices with shutters should be constructed in the main channel and all the branches, after finding out by actual experiment the quantity of water required for each block.

(iv) The necessary feeding channels to distribute water from the block sluice to the block tail-end had not been provided. Fields in the same block might be in different stages of cultivation and ryots would not allow water to be taken across their cultivated fields.

(v) The rotation system under which water was being distributed did not guarantee a steady and continuous supply throughout the season, and gave room for corruption and complaints. This system should give place to something better.

(vi) Cart roads to take manure to the fields and the harvest to the threshing floors were not in existence. Even the bank of the channel fit for cart traffic was blocked in several places by the P. W. D. Those obstructions should be removed and orders issued for the opening of as many roads as possible to facilitate cultivation. This also was one of the suggestions of the Special Officer, Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

(vii) Want of grazing gounds. It was necessary to prevent lands fit for use as grazing grounds being indiscriminately brought under registry.

(viii) The silt in the channel beds was not being removed. It might be auctioned away to the ryots for use in their fields.

(ix) Though it was anticipated that the Right Bank Channel could be opened to irrigate lands in the Vilavankod and Neyyattinkara taluks, it had not been possible owing to the deficiency of water in the reservoir. The ryots had no guarantee that they would be supplied with water for the lands converted into wet. The quantity of water required for each block and the capacity of the channels should be ascertained by experiments by experts, and permanent sluices (with shutters) of the required capacity should be constructed in all the branches in the light of the knowledge gained by the experiments.

(x) The rate of interest for agricultral loans should not go above 5 per cent. The proposed rate of 7½ per cent was very high.

(xi) There was no co-ordination of the activities of the P. W. D., Agricultural, Forest and Land Revenue departments ; nor was there any opportunity for them to come in contact with the ryots. The establishment of an Irrigation Board was therefore necessary.

(xii) Obsolete tank beds had in the past been freely sold in auction without ascertaining whether there were facilities to bring them under wet cultivation. The auction sale should be stopped till it was found that all the present conversions could get an adequate supply of water.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions made by the Member will be considered.

57. The need for enquiring into the difficulties experienced by the ryots of the Neyyattinkara taluk and for the immediate sanction of a reasonable amount of money for effecting improvements to the tanks and canals in that taluk.

Mr. Mathevan Krishnan (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) spoke at length on the condition of the irrigation tanks in the taluk and stated that the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, who inspected the place and conferred with the people had recommended that, out of the total cost for the works, three-fourths should be borne by the

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